World Bank's assistance for removal of poverty

*414. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 3184 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th December, 2000 and state:

(a) whether the World Bank President's commitment to raise Bank assistance to India to a level of US dollars three billion by 2001 has been fulfilled; and

(b) whether Government have taken steps to undertake a joint venture with the World Bank to study and carry out research for evolving IT applications to rural development and removal of poverty?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) The Country Assistance Strategy of the World Bank for Financial Year 2001-2002 finalised in March, 2001, after the visit of the World Bank President in November, 2000, envisages a base level commitment scenario of bank assistance of $3 billion per annum.

(b) Yes, Sir. Initial steps have been taken in this direction.

Prosecution of customs officials

*415. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the premises of some customs officials including Chairman of the Central Board of Excise and Customs were raided in the month of April, 2001;

(b) whether any properties have been recovered which were obtained illegally by the officials; and

(c) whether any prosecution has been launched against these officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) In April, 2001,

CBI had conducted a search of a Customs Appraiser in Mumbai. During the search of the residential premises of the officer, cash was recovered. No prosecution has been launched against the officer so far.

As regards former Chairman of the Central Board of Excise & Customs, the search was conducted in March and not in April, 2001. No prosecution has been launched against him so far.

Use of fake stamp paper by LIC

†*416. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of any case relating to use of fake stamp paper by Life Insurance Corporation and thus causing a major revenue loss to Government of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether any investigation has been made in this regard;

(c) if so, the action taken against the guilty persons; and

(d) if not, the action proposed by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The Government of Uttar Pradesh have informed that it has come to their knowledge that certain irregularities have been committed by the Life Insurance Corporation, Kanpur City regarding purchase of policy stamps. The matter is being inquired into by the District Authority of Stamps Department. An assessment of any revenue loss can be made only after the enquiry is completed.

(b) to (d) A departmental enquiry is being made into the alleged irregularities and action against guilty persons, if any, will taken after the enquiry is completed.

Recruitment of SC/ST Pilots

*417. SHRI R.N. ARYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.